



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

the English tongue, and to this day the popular language in the Northeastern shires would be intelligible to a Dane or a Norwegian were it not for the intermixture of Norman words and idioms. From this time onward great local diversities of dialect appear. To the Danes must also be attributed the wanton destruction of monasteries and schools, containing many libraries of the vernacular. At this point the author furnishes many interesting particulars of the meaning of geographical and proper names which have clung to the soil and remain to this day. Sometimes the spelling of these words has been modernized, but the pronunciation remains the same; thus Seaford, in Sussex, is pronounced by its inhabitants Sea-voort. The suffix *ford* is sometimes Anglo-Saxon, and then means a passage across a river; sometimes it is Norwegian, and then means an arm of the sea. This distinction, resulting from derivation, applies to many words. The terminations *thwaite*, *holm*, *by*, *ham*, *ness*, *ton*, *worth*, *burg*, *hurst*, *field*, *combe*, *meer*, *ing*, etc., are satisfactorily accounted for in a manner that will interest many readers.

The Norman conquest comes in for a large share of notice, as a matter of course, and here the book grows intensely readable and instructive. The character of the Normans and the circumstances which led up to the invasion by William, with a true story of that invasion and its influence upon the people and language, are skillfully set forth. It will not flatter the pride of the Norman aristocracy to be reminded that their progenitors in Normandy were in very many instances peasants and herdsmen. William made a clean sweep of the country, turning out the Saxon gentry and distributing their lands among his followers of every grade. There was terrible want and suffering where there had formerly been ease and abundance, and it was a common thing for Saxons of illustrious rank to sell themselves into slavery for food. But at this point we must leave this interesting book. The author continues his inquiries into the linguistic changes accomplished by this fusion of races, and the gradual consolidation, so to speak, of the English language, giving also in an appendix a valuable contribution as to the French sources of modern English, including a historical sketch of the French language, its etymology, and specimens of early French.

It will thus be seen that the work covers a very wide field. It can hardly be expected but that here and there an erroneous view may be propounded, but in a cursory examination we have not lighted upon any points calling for serious criticism. The author, by the care and fidelity of his researches and digests, has, in fact, produced a standard work which will doubtless find its way as such into the seminaries of learning on both sides of the Atlantic.

VI.

NEW WORK ON CHURCH HISTORY.

THE various standard histories of the Christian Church have not so thoroughly covered the field or met the needs of the public as to make it necessary to apologize for writing another book on that subject; and to many people the plan formed by Dr. Fisher* of condensing the most important facts into the compass of a single volume will be peculiarly acceptable. The author has two objects specially in view in this work—to exhibit the relations of the Church throughout its progress to secular history, and to present a survey of the history of Christian doctrine. We infer from the preface that the book has grown up from the basis of academic lectures delivered at Yale in the ordinary university course. It is

* "History of the Christian Church." By George Park Fisher, D.D., LL.D., Titus Street Professor of Ecclesiastical History in Yale University. With maps. Charles Scribner's Sons.

written in a compact, lucid style, and will be peculiarly serviceable to those who desire to post themselves in the main points of particular episodes and periods without wading through lengthened details. The chapters and paragraphs are so arranged as to show the subject matter at a glance, and the eye and memory are further assisted by systematic side notes. There are no foot-notes or references whatever to distract the attention from the text. In these respects the plan of the author has been carried out very successfully, and although the advanced scholar may regret that some important matters are disposed of quite summarily, he must recollect that the attempt to do full justice to every one of the vast multitude of topics ranging themselves under the comprehensive title of the work would have extended it to several volumes.

The contents are arranged under three great divisions—the ancient, the mediæval, and the modern eras. The first embraces four distinct periods—the Apostolic, thence to Constantine, thence to Gregory I., thence to Charlemagne. The second includes three distinct periods and brings us down to the Reformation. The third deals with the Reformation and carries us through the various phases of Church life to our own day. A considerable space is devoted to Christian missions, and also to the present doctrinal divisions of Christendom.

VII.

DANTON IN THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.

THE average American reader cares about as much for a study of Danton* as he would for a eulogy of the Man in the Moon; but fortunately Mr. Gronlund has not confined himself to Danton's biography. He has attempted to deduce from the French Revolution teachings that may be of use to us in the United States to-day. The book is well written and very readable, and the author stands far above most of the economic writers of the present day in the sobriety of his diction and the fidelity of his historical statements.

When Mr. Gronlund deals with the French character and French theories of government, his propositions are generally sound; but when he treats of our American Revolution he fails to grasp the full and true import of that event—both in the causes which led to its outbreak and the ideas which influenced the American people at that time. He ignores also the propulsion which our success gave to the outbreaking of the French Revolution, and he is blind to the total inability of the French people to comprehend the properties and principles underlying our system of government.

The awful atrocities of the French Revolution all civilized peoples must ever regard with horror, yet they were the natural and inevitable results following the absence of checks and balances in the French Revolutionary system, where a law was proposed, and adopted, and executed in the space of a few minutes. No time was given there for sober second thought—no supervising second or third power was asked to approve or disapprove. The heat of passion, the hysteria of fear, the delirium of enthusiasm, were the influences among which laws were made and deeds done at which the world still shudders. Mr. Gronlund shows clearly these defects in the political system of the French Revolution, but he does not seem to appreciate the causes from which they resulted, nor to clearly comprehend that very similar results might follow in the United States if our system of checks and balances was once broken down.

It is the fashion nowadays to eulogize earnestness, and Mr. Gronlund is not

* "Ça Ire ! or Danton in the French Revolution. A Study." By Lawrence Gronlund.